

# GUILLEMONT JUNIOR SCHOOL - GOVERNORS' POLICY DOCUMENT

## CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

At Guillemont Junior School, the health, safety and well-being of all our children are of paramount importance to all the adults who work in our school. All children have a right to be protected from abuse.

Children have the right to protection, regardless of age, gender, race, culture or disability. They have a right to be safe in our school. Where there is conflict of interest between the parent and the child, the interest of the child must be paramount.

In our school we respect our children. The atmosphere within our school is one that encourages all children to do their best. We provide opportunities that enable our children to take and make decisions for themselves.

Our teaching of PACE: citizenship, personal, social, moral and health education and curriculum helps to develop appropriate attitudes in our children and makes them aware of the impact of their decisions on others. We also teach them how to recognise different risks in different situations, and how to behave in response to them.

### Aims and objectives

This policy ensures that all members of staff in our school are clear about the actions necessary with regard to a child protection issue. Its aims are:

- to raise the awareness of all staff and identify responsibility in reporting possible cases of abuse;
- to ensure effective communication between all staff when dealing with child protection issues;
- to lay down the correct procedures for those who encounter an issue of child protection.

A child is considered to be abused or at risk when the basic needs of the child are not being met through avoidable acts or omissions. This includes neglect and physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

Through daily contact, school staff are well placed to notice signs of neglect, behavioural change or failure to develop as expected, which may be indicators of abuse.

**If child abuse is suspected**, the aim is to minimise damage and to promote recovery. If a child volunteers information about abuse to a member of staff, they should report the disclosure to the named Child Protection Liaison Officer, Miss Cook, the Headteacher. HCC Child Protection Guidance must then be followed and the school's Confidentiality and Handling Sensitive Issues Policy.

A member of staff who receives a report from a child must not ask leading questions or proffer alternative explanations for the child's concerns. The disclosure should be recorded as soon as possible, using the child's own language.

Such reports should be kept separately from normal records in a secure filing cabinet and not disclosed to unauthorised persons.

In every case the Headteacher should inform the relevant Social Services and Health authority.

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When a child makes a disclosure of sexual abuse the adult will avoid questioning the child or promising confidentiality while giving reassurance.

We regard all information relating to individual child protection issues as confidential, and we treat this accordingly. We only pass information on to appropriate persons. We inform the child at all stages of who is involved, and what information we have given them.

We require all adults employed in school to have their application vetted through CRB in order to ensure that there is no evidence of offences involving children or abuse. All members of staff receive periodic training in how to work with children and in keeping them safe. This is especially important for volunteers on school residential visits.

There may be times when adults in our school, in the course of their duty, use physical intervention to restrain children. The Headteacher requires the adult involved in any such incident to report this to him immediately and to record it in brief written form to be filed.

Should any complaint or allegation be made about abuse of a child by a member of staff, then Social Services and Hampshire Personnel Department will be contacted by the Headteacher for advice. Such matters will be confidential and the members of staff will be fully involved in any subsequent investigation.

## **Monitoring and review**

The governing body regularly reviews any incidents detailed in the interventions book. A named governor participates in the school's training with regard to the child protection procedures (currently Mrs Denise Rapley). This policy is reviewed annually by the Governing Body.

**Procedures to be followed are found in the Child Protection Guidance HCC p8 and p10.**

**Signed:** Wander ter Kuile (Chairman of Governors)

**Date:** June 2005

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